

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00654 131914Z

70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /121 W

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R 131700Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4512

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CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

SECDEF

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0654

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MARR NATO IC

SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION ISSUE: CABINET MINISTERS

INTERVIEWED ON DEVELOPMENTS

1. OPPOSITION INDEPENDENCE PARTY NEWSPAPER VISIR PUBLISHED TEXT MAY 10 OF SHORT INTERVIEW ON DEFENSE AFFAIRS WITH FONMIN AGUSTSSON AND MIN INDUSTRIES MAGNUS KJARTANSSON. WHEN ASKED IF ANY DEVELOPMENTS WERE EXPECTED IN DEFENSE MATTER PRIOR TO JUNE 30 NATIONAL ELECTIONS, AGUSTSSON REPLIED, "I DO NOT EXPECT ANYTHING WILL HAPPEN EXCEPT THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT MIGHT REPLY TO THE PROPOSALS WHICH I DELIVERED IN WASHINGTON ON APRIL 8 AND 9. IF A REPLY WERE TO COME FROM THE UNITED STATES, WE COULD RECEIVE IT BUT NOT DO ANYTHING BECAUSE WE HAVE NO ALTHING TO CONSULT." WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE PROPOSED LIMITATION ON TV TRANSMISSIONS FROM THE BASE, AGUSTSSON SAID, "IN THE CASE OF THE TV, PROCEDURES WILL BE AS ALREADY STATED. THE TRANSMISSION POWER WILL BE LIMITED WHEN TECHNICAL PREPARATIONS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED."

2. WHEN ASKED SAME QUESTIONS, KJARTANSSON SAID, "THE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT IN REGARD TO THE MILITARY BASE IS CLEAR.

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PAGE 02 REYKJA 00654 131914Z

IT IS EXPRESSED IN THE AGREEMENT OF MARCH 20 WHICH THE

FOREIGN MINISTER TOOK TO WASHINGTON. THE FOREIGN MINISTER INTENDS TO WAIT FOR A REPLY FROM THE UNITED STATES. WE REGARD THE AGREEMENT AS THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS. IT WILL NOT BE CHANGED WITHOUT CONSULTING THE GOVERNMENT PARTIMES. IF THE US AGREES TO OUR PROPOSALS--WHICH I DO NOT CONSIDER IMPOSSIBLE--AN AGREEMENT BASED ON THOSE PROPOSALS CAN BE MADE. THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS DECLARED TIME AND TIME AGAIN THAT THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT WILL NOT BE TERMINATED WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE ALTHING."

3. CONCERNING BASE TV, KIARTANSSON SAID, "ICELANDIC AUTHORITIES CAN MAKE DECISIONS REGARDING THE OPERATIONS OF THE KEFLAVIK TV WHICH NOBODY ELSE CAN INTERFERE WITH. THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECLARED THAT THE TRANSMISSION OF THE TV IS TO BE LIMITED AND NOW IT IS ONLY WAITING FOR THE TECHNICAL PREPARATIONS TO BE MADE TO FOLLOW UP THAT DECISION."
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